

than 30 percent of my annual electricity and propane needs! I didn't even start on my diesel and gasoline requirements. My conclusion from this analysis is that we *must* utilize oil, coal and nuclear power to continue to provide the majority of our energy requirements in this country long into the future. It is not just our economy that we need to worry about, but the very fabric of our society is at stake! Renewable energy is a curiosity and may help in small amounts in localized applications, but it is obvious to me that you cannot take small net energy sources and produce big net energy sources from them. Be concerned about ethanol and bio diesel for that very reason. We need to stop this anal conservation lunacy and utilize our natural resources to solve our energy problem! Absolutely, we need to take care of the environment, but we cannot afford to pay these prices (especially as the money goes directly to the Middle East to fund our enemies!). The solution to the problem is obvious—why cannot we set aside political posturing and get this done???

KEN, *Suan Valley*.

I consider Idaho my home. I love the state, the out of doors and, most of all, the people. I have lived here for over ten years having moved here from Bend, Oregon. My career has taken me all over the world. I have lived or traveled through 39 countries in the last twenty years prior to moving here, and there is nowhere else I would rather live. Presently, I live 45 miles north of Boise, near New Plymouth.

For a number of years, I worked for Woodgrain Millwork as manager of one of their testing and coatings sections. When that closed, I transferred to Kelly Moore as the outside Industrial and Commercial Sales Rep. Life has been very enjoyable. However, a large portion of my activity centers around construction, food processing and manufacturing. Each of these sectors has had to restructure a good many of their plans as one might expect.

It is my belief the market in Idaho will recover at some point; however, it is simply a matter of how long the individual can hold out. Commissions, as one would expect, have lagged, and, of course, the cost of living has not. I have a pretty good-sized territory requiring considerable driving. Every two weeks, I have been spending around \$250 for gas. Today, I turned in receipts for close to \$500. While the company offsets the majority of this, I still bear a portion and, with the increase in the overall cost of living and the decline in commissions, I am having to look for work elsewhere. I have been supplementing the difference out of savings; I cannot keep doing that. The fact of the matter is Friday I fly to Portland for an interview, a bitter pill, but I must get the bleed under control. Given the changes over the last seven to eight months, I see no other choice.

ROGER.

SENATOR CRAPO, Even though I make a good living these gas prices couldn't have hit at a worse time. I am trying to get my bills paid down so that I can afford to retire. It does not look like I'll be retiring anytime soon.

I am very upset with Congress; they should be opening up exploration and drilling in this country. I agree with Newt: Drill here, Drill now, Pay less. Please work towards this goal.

Thank you for asking,

BILL, *Meridian*.

Yeah, gas is too high and it makes the price of everything go up. Food prices are going crazy, produce, it is killing the farm-

ers the truckers and the consumers. Now the electric bill is going up, natural gas going up, but wages not so much.

I make \$15.60 an hour, pretty good for Idaho; but if I hadn't already bought into my house eight years ago, I would be out of luck.

I believe transit would help a good deal, but the bus system [is not adequate]. Not enough money to run a real bus system. Federal funding keeps getting cut and cut again. It does not make sense. If you want people to cut consumption of gas, you have to give them options.

Sincerely,

CONNIE, *Boise*.

I would like to respond to your request for comments regarding energy prices and their effect on the people you represent.

Like many people in the greater Boise metro area, I work in downtown Boise but live in communities in the surrounding areas. I work as a software developer, and as such I make what is largely considered to be a comfortable income. I drive a late 80s sedan that I have owned for ten years, and was owned by my parents before me. Unlike many neighbors, I carry no debt outside of my home mortgage, but my mortgage is a significant portion of my after-tax income (greater than 35 percent). My family functions on a very lean budget, not eating out often, producing our own vegetables in our garden, and taking few road trips or vacations.

Lately I have needed to cut back on my driving due to increased fuel costs. My commute now costs me roughly \$5.50 per day just in gas. According to the IRS standard vehicle expense deduction, the real cost is \$12.12 daily, which includes upkeep and repair as well as fuel costs. Just last year, I was able to function within a \$3 per day commute budget. To counteract these increases in cost, I have purchased a road bicycle and am starting to ride in to work the 12 miles one way. Unfortunately, this adds an extra 1.5 hours to my day. So now my workday increased from roughly nine hours away from home to almost eleven hours.

However, I also suffer from severe allergies specifically relating to tree pollen, grasses and weeds, of which our desert climate and river surrounding community has plenty. These allergies cause my eyes to swell shut when pollen levels increase beyond reasonable levels. The Boise valley area has especially bad pollen problems, due to frequent inversions and stale summer air conditions.

So I am faced with the choice of saving money by riding a bicycle, but suffering debilitating allergic reactions, or paying an additional 54 percent in transportation costs, which cuts out monies allocated in our budget to spending time with my family in local restaurants, or for charitable giving to the Rescue Mission. Those businesses and charities, in turn, no doubt, are feeling the pinch from other families in similar situations, so local businesses are suffering as well.

The net result of rising costs of fuel and inadequate public transportation in suburban cities, is a lose-lose situation for both me and my community. Add to this problem the speculative nature of fuel prices due to our nations reliance on fuel imports, and the future becomes even less certain. An uncertain future means less spending. Less spending means economic shortfalls and contraction.

I am entirely in favor of new efforts to expand new domestic oil exploration and refining capacity as well as investments in nuclear energy infrastructure to help reassign valuable fossil fuels like natural gas or oil to transportation uses and away from electrical power generation. And I also am in favor of long term research in alternate energy and alternate transportation but not to the ex-

clusion of shorter term solutions that make use of our nations existing vehicle inventory and infrastructure.

Thank you for your desire to hear from your constituents.

JASON, *Meridian*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF THE HEALTH CENTERS OF DELAWARE

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, each year the Nation celebrates National Health Center Week to honor the efforts of the nearly 40,000 medical professionals who strive to provide quality health care to Americans throughout all 50 States. I am pleased to announce that this year National Health Center Week will be held August 10 through 16.

As an annual supporter of this event, I once again commend the work of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Centers and the many health centers in my home State for the role they play in delivering quality, affordable health care to lower-income Delawareans.

These health centers are community-run and open to all Americans regardless of their ability to pay. Delaware is fortunate to have a number of these health centers, including Westside Health in Wilmington and Newark, Henrietta Johnson in Wilmington, Delmarva Kent Community Health Center in Dover, and La Red Health Center in Sussex County.

These centers and those across our Nation are extremely valuable, operating in both rural and urban medically underserved areas and providing care that might not be otherwise available to residents.

By serving as a point of access for affordable primary and preventative care, our Nation's health centers allow to patients to stay healthier, or if they are ill to allow them to seek earlier treatment. This prevents patients from relying solely on costly treatments, such as emergency room visits, saving money for them and our health care system as a whole.

Again, I wish to commend the health centers of Delaware for their hard work and dedication. I thank them for all of the valuable services they provide to so many of us who call Delaware home.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAN MOUND

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the importance of Man Mound and congratulate the citizens of Sauk County and the Sauk County Historical Society for their extensive and successful preservation efforts.

Hundreds of years ago, before the Europeans came to this land, a band of Native Americans began efforts to alter the landscape by creating effigy mounds. Although the purpose is still unclear, effigy mounds were primarily